

# BMAPs and FDACS-adopted Equine BMPs

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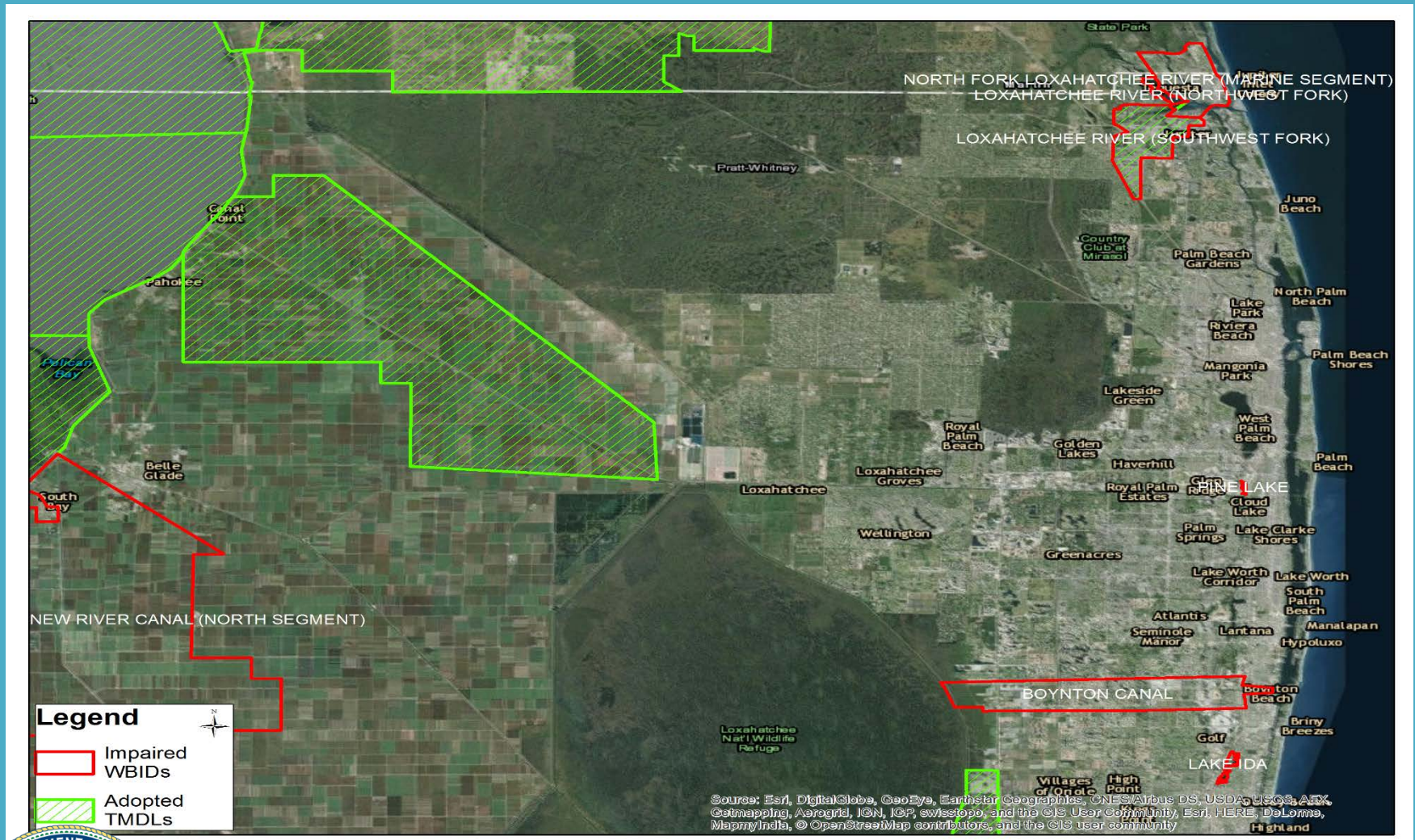
# What is a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)?

- It is a water quality target
- Scientific determination of the maximum amount of a given pollutant that a surface water can absorb and still meet the water quality standards that protect human health and aquatic life.



Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) . (n.d.). Retrieved August 23, 2016, from <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl/>

# Are there any TMDLs in our area?



Yes! This map shows waterbodies with an impairment that are on FDEP's TMDL Work Plan and TMDLs that have been adopted.



# What is a Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)?

- Plan for meeting the water quality target.
- “Blueprint” for restoring impaired waters by reducing pollutant loadings to meet the allowable loadings established in a TMDL.
- Pollutants can include:
  - Phosphorus (P)
  - Nitrogen (N)
  - Dissolved Oxygen (DO)



Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) . (n.d.). Retrieved August 23, 2016, from <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/watersheds/bmap.htm>

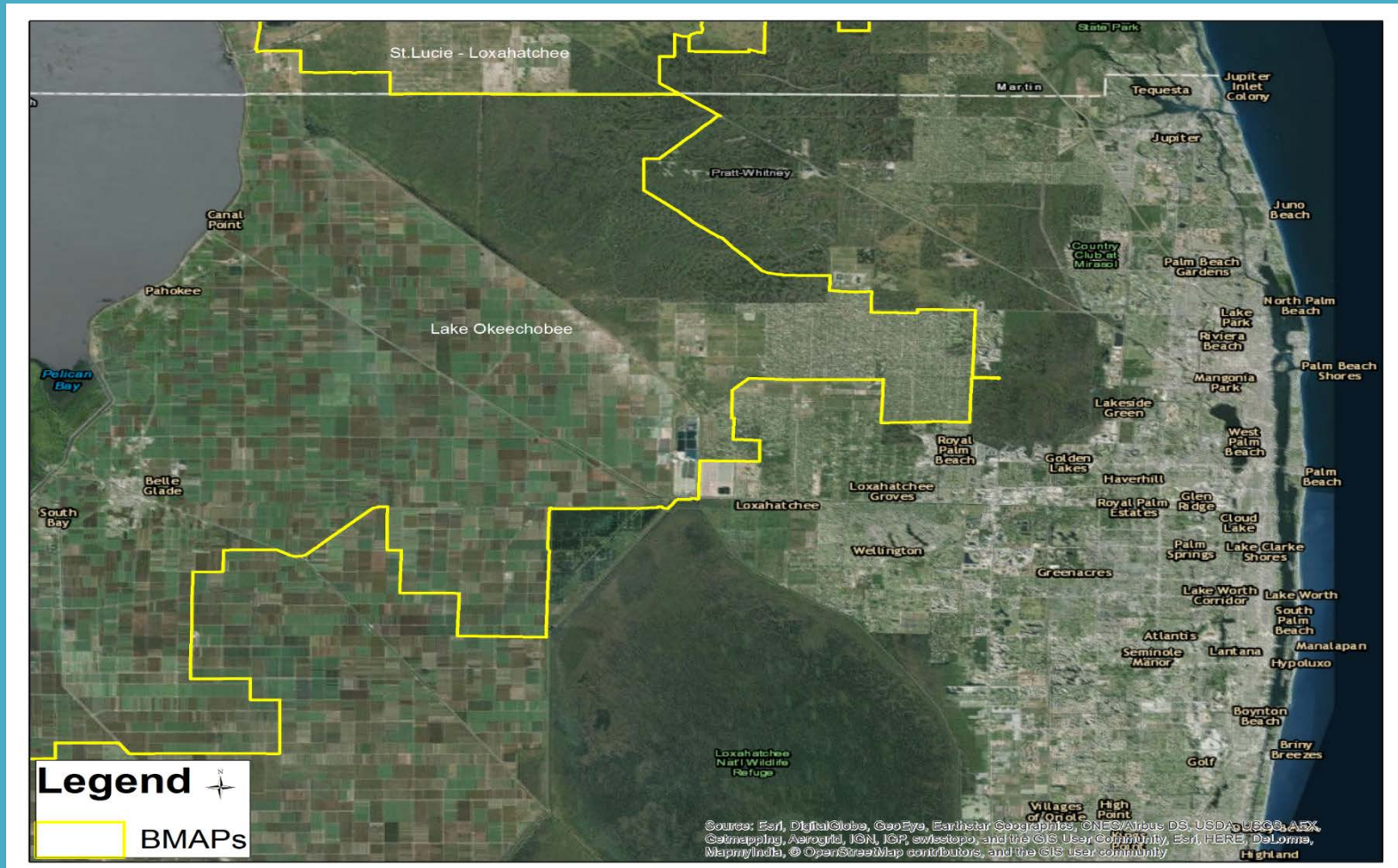
# What is a Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)?

- It represents a comprehensive set of strategies designed to implement the pollutant reductions established by the TMDL.
  - Strategies include:
    - Permit limits on wastewater facilities
    - Stormwater Projects
    - Agricultural BMPs (e.g., FDACS BMP program)
    - Urban BMPs
    - Regional Projects
    - Conservation Programs
    - Financial Assistance to Agricultural and Urban Stakeholders (e.g., Cost Shared BMPs)
    - Education
- Broad-based plan developed with local stakeholders--they rely on local input and local commitment--and they are adopted by Secretarial Order to be enforceable.



Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) . (n.d.). Retrieved August 23, 2016, from <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/watersheds/bmap.htm>

# Are there any BMAPs in our area?



Yes. However, Phase I (10 years) of the Lake Okeechobee BMAP only pertains to the northern 6 sub-watersheds. Future phases of the BMAP will focus on all 9 sub-watersheds (especially when the model for this BMAP is updated).



# What Are Agricultural Best Management Practices?

- Agricultural **Best Management Practices** (BMPs) are practical measures that producers can take to reduce the amount of fertilizers, pesticides, animal waste, and other pollutants entering our water resources.
- They are designed to improve water quality while maintaining agricultural production.
- The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) has adopted BMPs for most commodities in the state. Each BMP manual covers key aspects of water quality and water conservation.



# What Are Agricultural Best Management Practices?

Typical practices include:

- **Nutrient Management** to determine nutrient needs and sources, and manage nutrient applications (including manure) to minimize impacts to water resources.
  - **Examples include:**
    - Basing fertilization rates for P on soil test-based recommendations (UF-IFAS publication SL-129) and on the forage being grown; tissue tests are also required for bahiagrass
    - Keeping records of nutrient applications which include date of application, total amount applied, acreage covered, fertilizer analysis, rate per acre, and application method.
    - Accounting for land application of manure or biosolids in your nutrient budget
    - Following spill application recommendations as described in UF-IFAS publication SL-129





# What Are Agricultural Best Management Practices?

- **Manure Management** to address proper storage, disposal, and use of manure.
  - Examples include:
    - Collecting manure from confined areas at least monthly and properly storing the manure in a dedicated facility with an impervious base that is protected from rainfall.
    - Composting based on the amount of manure that is generated on-site.
    - Following manure storage area setback distances described in the FDACS Equine BMP manual.
    - Maintaining records if a commercial hauler is used to transport the manure off-site.



# What Are Agricultural Best Management Practices?

- **Water Resource Protection** using buffers, setbacks, and swales to reduce or prevent the transport of sediments and nutrients from production areas to waterbodies.
  - Examples include:
    - Not applying fertilizer or composted manure within 50 ft of watercourses, lakes, wetlands, drinking water wells, or sinkholes. The setback distance is 100 ft for uncomposted manure.
    - Ensuring that there is no discharge from manure storage areas into watercourses, lakes, wetlands, drinking water wells, or sinkholes.
    - Locate new high intensity areas as far from watercourses, lakes, wetlands, drinking water wells, or sinkholes as practical.
    - Place water troughs and feed and mineral stations as far from watercourses, lakes, wetlands, drinking water wells, or sinkholes as practical.
    - Locate riding trails a minimum of 25 ft from watercourses, lakes, wetlands, drinking water wells, or sinkhole.



# Why Should I Implement BMPs?

- Implementing (and maintaining) verified FDACS-adopted BMPs provides a presumption of compliance with state water quality standards for the pollutants addressed by the BMPs.
- Some BMPs can help you operate more efficiently and reduce costs, while you help protect the environment.
- Producers who implement FDACS-adopted BMPs might satisfy some water management district (WMD) permitting requirements. Check with your WMD.
- With some exceptions, the Florida Right to Farm Act prohibits local governments from regulating an agricultural activity that is addressed through rule-adopted BMPs that producers are implementing.
- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is developing BMAPs to meet adopted water quality targets called TMDLs. *Where FDEP adopts a BMAP that includes agriculture, producers must either implement FDACS-adopted BMPs, or conduct monitoring (prescribed by FDEP or the water management district) to show they are not violating water quality standards. This type of monitoring is very expensive.*



# How Do I Participate in BMPs?

1. **Schedule a meeting with a BMP team member**, who will provide a free FDACS BMP manual and other BMP-related information.
2. **Participate with the coordinator in a free assessment of your operation** to determine which BMPs apply to you.
3. **Fill out a BMP checklist and sign the Notice of Intent (NOI)** to implement the BMPs.
4. **Keep a copy** of the checklist and signed NOI in your records.
5. **Implement and maintain the applicable BMPs and keep adequate records** to maintain a presumption of compliance with state water quality standards.



# Questions?

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